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JAMES FLEMING HOSIC

AMERICA'S ANSWER TO THE CHALLENGE: PATRIOTIC PANTOMIME

DRAMATIS PERSONAE: Columbia, Uncle Sam, Militarism, a soldier, a sailor, a Red Cross nurse, statue of Goddess of Liberty.

ACCOMPANIMENTS: "America," national hymn (*G. W. Warren*), "Walpurgis Nacht" from *Faust* (*Gounod*), "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean," bugle call for assembly, "Stars and Stripes Forever" (*Sousa*), American hymn (*M. Keller*), "Star-Spangled Banner."

The platform, the Goddess of Liberty, the service flag, and the eagle with the flag in its beak must be hidden behind the curtain with the flag on it during the first tableau, for there is only one part and the actors will otherwise have no opportunity to go to their positions. Columbia and Uncle Sam hold these positions while "America" is played through twice. Uncle Sam walks, in deep thought, across the back of the stage, with his hands folded behind his back, shaking his head now and then. Columbia, unlike Uncle Sam, is unaware of the approaching danger. She walks lightly across the stage and when in the center of stage stretches her arms out with free, exulting gesture, smiles, and walks back as if without care.

During the next episode "Walpurgis Nacht" is played. Uncle Sam is in deep thought, his right elbow resting on his left hand and his chin on his right hand. Columbia becomes apprehensive. Militarism makes his entrance with a vulturous look on his dreadful visage. At first Columbia looks at him with a blank face, then she becomes frightened.

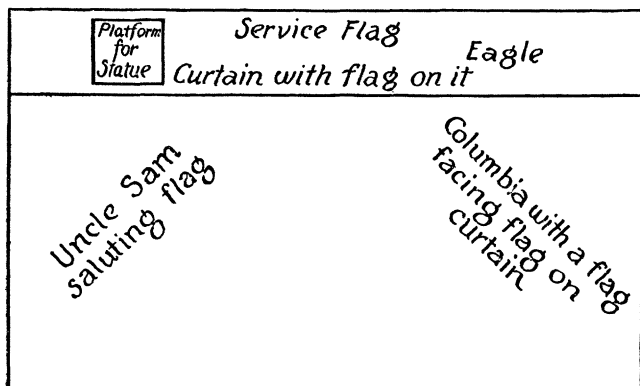


FIG. 1.—Stage for tableau at beginning of pantomime

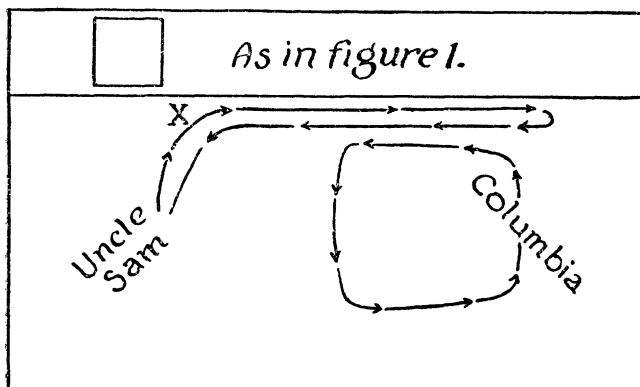


FIG. 2.—Stage for tableau after action has begun

She steps back. Militarism follows her. All the while he is following her he makes terrific gestures. Columbia retreats still farther, and Militarism comes closer. When he reaches X (on Fig. 2) Columbia cowers before him, and he stands threateningly above her. She falls to the ground, and a horrid leer creeps over his face. He seems satisfied and is going to leave the stage, when, as the strains of "Columbia, the Gem of the Ocean" burst forth, Uncle Sam awakens from his reverie,

and their eyes meet and are fastened upon each other. Columbia slowly revives from her trance of terror and surveys the action which is taking place. There is a vengeful look in her eyes, but as yet she is helpless. Uncle Sam goes to Columbia and helps her to her feet, while Militarism looks on in scornful surprise. Uncle Sam lays his hand comfortingly on Columbia's shoulder and she stands up, proudly bearing her flag on high. She walks toward Militarism, but he mocks at her attempt at power. She tries once more to defy him, but in vain. Militarism silently exults, with an evil chuckle.

Columbia stands near the center of stage, Militarism near by, at left of stage. Uncle Sam, at right of stage, looks on in approval. The music has stopped. Columbia is saluting the flag and silently reciting the flag salute, her face expressing deep feeling. Militarism slowly backs off the stage.

After the flag salute, a bugle call is given. Then "Stars and Stripes Forever" is played. Uncle Sam is at right of stage and Columbia at left. A soldier comes in at right and salutes Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam puts his arm affectionately over the soldier's shoulder. The soldier salutes again and then passes on to Columbia. Columbia sadly, yet proudly, shakes hands with him. He goes out at left, and she longingly reaches out her arms to him. Just as he leaves the stage the sailor enters, at right. Columbia slowly turns in his direction. Same action as before is repeated with sailor. Just as he leaves the stage the Red Cross nurse enters. Uncle Sam takes both of her hands in both his, in farewell. She passes on to Columbia, who embraces her. She leaves the stage.

The National Hymn accompanies the final action.

Uncle Sam and Columbia in silent prayer. Uncle Sam has removed his hat and bowed his head. Columbia has one hand on her breast and eyes turned heavenward. They keep this pose until the hymn is played once. When it is played the second time they assume the same position as in tableau at the beginning. At the same time the curtain with the flag on it must be drawn aside, revealing the statue of the Goddess of Liberty and the eagle with flag, and the service flag is unfurled. The tableau must be complete at end of the second playing of the American hymn.

The tableau must be held until the "Star-Spangled Banner" is played through once.

[*Curtain*]

NOTE.—All movements must be slow and stately to express more fully the noble purpose. The songs may be played as often as necessary to suit the action where the number of times is not specified.

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